1). Michael Emens
Reiner Kraft.

2). IBM corp.

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System & Method for associating Search results.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1   1. A method for associating search results, said method comprising the steps of:

2   providing an original list of search results to a first user in response to a first
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3   query;   (col 2, 30-34 66)   600

4   recording the search results selected by the first user and associating the selected
270

5   search results with the first query;   (2, 63 - 3, 44-46)   a user create query
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6   receiving a second query from a second user, the second query being the same as

7   or similar to the first query; and   710 - 720

8   providing an alternate list of search results to the second user, the alternate list

9   listing those search results from the original list that have been associated with the first

10   query due to selection by a user.   (2, 10, 20).

1   2.   The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2   before the step of receiving the second query from the second user, providing the

3   original list of search results to a plurality of other users in response to queries that are

4   each the same as or similar to the first query; and

5   recording each of the search results selected by one of the other users and

6   associating the selected search results with the first query,

7   wherein the alternate list of search results contains only those search results from

8   the original list that were selected by the first user or one of the other users.

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1   3.   The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of providing the alternate list
2   of search results to the second user includes the sub-steps of:
3   displaying the original list of search results to the second user;
4   receiving a request from the second user to view the alternate list of search results;
5   and
6   displaying the alternate list of search results to the second user.

1   4.   The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of recording the search results
2   includes the sub-steps of:
3   storing each selected search result in a query database; and
4   for each stored searched result, storing an alternate results vector for each query
5   for which the stored search result was selected.

5. A method for associating search results, said method comprising the steps of:

providing original lists of search results in response to queries, each original list of search results being provided in response to one of the queries;

recording the search results selected by users in response to each of the queries;

receiving another query that is the same as or similar to one of the queries; and

providing an alternate list of search results that contains only those search results from the original list that have been recorded as being previously selected in response to the one query.

6. The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the step of providing the alternate list of search results includes the sub-steps of:

providing the original list of search results in response to the one query;

receiving a request to view the alternate list of search results; and

displaying the alternate list of search results.

7. The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the step of recording the search results includes the sub-steps of:

storing each selected search result in a query database; and

for each stored searched result, storing an alternate results vector for each of the queries in response to which the stored search result was selected.

8. The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the step of providing original lists of search results includes the sub-step of:

for each of the queries, searching a network using the query so as to produce one of the original lists of search results.

9. A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for associating search results, said program containing instructions for performing the steps of:

provlding original lists of search results in response to queries, each original list of search results being provided in response to one of the queries;

recording the search results selected by users in response to each of the queries;

receiving another query that is the same as or similar to one of the queries; and

providing an alternate list of search results that contains only those search results from the original list that have been recorded as being previously selected in response to the one query.

10. The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of providing the alternate list of search results includes the sub-steps of:

providing the original list of search results in response to the one query;

receiving a request to view the alternate list of search results; and

displaying the alternate list of search results.

11. The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of recording the search results includes the sub-steps of:

storing each selected search result in a query database; and

for each stored searched result, storing an alternate results vector for each of the queries in response to which the stored search result was selected.

12. The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of providing original lists of search results includes the sub-step of:

for each of the queries, searching a network using the query so as to produce one of the original lists of search results.

1   13.   A system for providing search results, said system comprising:

2   a search engine for providing original lists of search results in response to queries,

3   each original list of search results being provided in response to one of the queries;

4   a query database for storing the search results selected by users in response to

5   each of the queries; and

6   a controller for providing an alternate list of search results in response to another

7   query that is the same as or similar to one of the queries,

8   wherein the alternate list of search results lists those search results from the

9   original list that have been recorded in the query database as having been previously

10   selected in response to the one query.

1   14.   The system as defined in claim 13, wherein the controller includes:

2   means for providing the original list of search results in response to the one query;

3   means for receiving a request to view the alternate list of search results; and

4   means for displaying the alternate list of search results.

1   15.   The system as defined in claim 13, wherein the query database stores each

2   selected search result, and for each stored searched result, an alternate results vector for

3   each of the queries in response to which the stored search result was selected.

1   16.   The system as defined in claim 13, wherein for each of the queries, the search

2   engine searches a network using the query so as to produce one of the original lists of

3   search results.